

Care in Scotland it's life changing work

Colin Mackie, Assistant Support Worker

"I would encourage anyone to take up this career choice as it is very rewarding."



Colin works at Gowrie Care's Hillbank service but he hasn't always worked in social services.

What type of service do you work in?


Hillbank supports four wheelchair users with learning disabilities to live as independently as possible.

Have you always worked in social services?

No, I previously worked for DC Thomson.

What made you choose the career you have now?

I got made redundant after 33 years and chose a new career path.





Can you tell us more about your job?

I support four service users in wheelchairs with learning disabilities. My role includes personal care, assisting with meals, personal shopping, medication, moving and handling and paperwork.

Can you give an example of something that you are working on at the moment?

In the process of moving a new service user in to the project.

What qualifications do you need for this job?

You have to be willing to work towards an SVQ qualification.

Who else is in your team?

Assistant support workers, support workers, assistant manager and an area manager.

Do you work with other professionals in other sectors eg health, teaching, justice?

We work with care managers, GP's, dentists and day centre staff.

What part of your job motivates you and why?

Seeing the people who use the service happy.

What are the best bits about your job?


Taking service users out to activities ie cinema, meals out, clubs and holidays.


What are the challenges, good and not so good that you face in your job?

We can have times when service users are unwell, challenging behaviour and bereavements.

In what way is your career in social services rewarding?

Making sure the people who use the service have an independent lifestyle.





Can you explain the skills and qualities you think are needed to do the role you're doing?

Life skills, people skills, patience, empathy, humour and common sense.

Has your job opened up new learning and development for you?

It has improved my understanding of people with mental health and learning disabilities.

How do you see your career progressing?

I am happy in my present role but will continue to develop my file work as co keyworker.

What would you say to someone thinking about a career in social services?

I would encourage anyone to take up this career choice as it is very rewarding.

Is a career in care the career for you?

Try our interactive resource, **A question of care: a career for you** to see what a career in care is like. At the end you'll receive a detailed personal profile that tells you if you've got what it takes to join us!

You can hear from people already working in social care, early years or social work as they talk about why they love their job and what a difference they make to someone's life. And find out about the many different types of jobs and areas you can work in.

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